



A Symbol Of Easter

The lily, whose white blossoms symbolize purity, has for centuries been associated with the hope and newness of life embodied in the Resurrection of Christ.—(RNS Photo)

Cooperative Program Celebration Set For SBC

NORFOLK (BP)—The Cooperative Program Celebration highlighting the Tuesday evening session of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) here June 15-17 will be a cooperative effort of Baptist agencies to tell how cooperation has caused denominational growth.

The 40-minute multi-media presentation featuring The Century men singing group in a 1925 church service setting will give the Biblical basis and trace the history of the accomplishments of Baptists since the SBC's national Cooperative Program unified budget became a reality nearly 51 years ago.

Because of logistics of the large Norfolk auditorium, the special presentation will be prepared for use on a television image magnification system similar to the ones used during the Dallas and Miami annual national SBC sessions.

The SBC Radio and Television Commission will produce the program and videotape it for state Baptist executive secretaries to distribute regionally.

The celebration, designed to draw attention to the close of the Cooperative Program's 50th anniversary, is a cooperative effort between convention agencies represented on the SBC Stewardship Commission's Cooperative Program Forum.

"The Cooperative Program Forum is a committee composed of representatives from SBC agencies, a representative for the seminaries, representatives for the state executive secretaries, a representative from the state newspaper editors, and representatives of stewardship secretaries," said B. Conrad John-

ston, pastor, Salem (Va.) Baptist Church, and member of the SBC Executive Committee.

Johnston is chairman of the Cooperative Program Forum and acts as a liaison between it and the Executive Committee. The forum functions at the request of the Stewardship Commission in an effort to further correlate Cooperative Program promotion among the state conventions and the SBC boards and agencies.

"This presentation will be the

(Continued on page 2)

100,000 Bibles To Be Released Throughout Soviet Union

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (RNS) — The Russian Orthodox Church and the "officially recognized" Baptist organization in the USSR are reportedly planning a new printing of the Russian Bible to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the first publication in that language.

A 100,000-copy edition will be printed in the USSR on the state press in a joint project of the Russian Orthodox Church and the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians-Baptists (AUCECB).

Plans for the printing were announced here by a delegation of registered Baptists during a visit with officials at the Assemblies of

God International Headquarters.

They said the Bible was translated in Russian in 1870, and the first printing came in 1876. They expressed appreciation to the Assemblies of God for a \$2,000 gift to the AUCECB for enlarging the church's printing ministry.

It was noted that the AUCECB officially received a shipment recently of 3,000 German language Bibles from the United Bible Societies. The Bibles will be used by Mennonites and German-speaking Baptists. A European official of the United Bible Societies became the first Bible society representative ever formally received by Soviet authorities.

A Christian Physician Explains:

The Death Of Jesus Christ

By Dr. David Dunavant

(This is the second portion of an address by Dr. David Dunavant, Memphis physician and surgeon, delivered on two occasions in recent years at the Mississippi Baptist Men's Conference, which precedes the state convention each year. Dr. Dunavant's subject was "The Humanity of Christ," and the address deals not only with our Lord's death but also with His birth. However, space does not permit publishing the entire ad-

dress in the temple, and they held a legal trial, and it didn't take them very long until they pronounced Him guilty of blasphemy, which still couldn't get the death sentence. So they had to take him to Pilate, and they woke old Pilate up. The Bible says it was early. They wouldn't go into the Governor's mansion because this was the feast of the Passover, and they couldn't be defiled. So Pilate

Jesus into the governor's mansion and talked to Him. He tried to find some way out of this thing and then saw a way out. He would release one of the prisoners, and the Bible says that the Scribes and the Pharisees convinced the multitude to cry "Crucify him" again and again. Pilate still didn't give up. Jesus still had not complained. It was then the Bible says that Pilate had him scourged.

Five-Year Period

Southern Baptist Schools Show Enrollment Rise

NASHVILLE (BP) — Seventy-one Southern Baptist-related educational institutions across the nation have shown a 33.06 percent increase in regular enrollment of full time equivalent (FTE) students between the 1969-70 school year (91,147 students) and the 1975-76 school year (121,282), according to a report.

The report, released by Ben C. Fisher, executive director-treas-

urer of the Education Commission of the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC), also shows that total enrollment at the schools, including all students enrolled in academic work, increased significantly. It rose from 110,143 in 1969-70 to 141,554 in 1975-76, a 28.52 percent increase.

Another part of the statistical analysis reveals that vocational Christian workers enrolled on Baptist campuses have shown an overall 45.30 percent increase during the same period.

Enrollment rose in three categories — senior and junior colleges, seminaries, and Bible school — but dropped in a fourth — academies. Seven Southern Baptist-related academies declined 8.34 percent in FTE en-

rollment (from 3,128 in 1969-70 to 2,897 in 1975-76) and went down 5.27 percent in total enrollment (from 3,128 to 2,963).

"However, this year," Fisher noted, "the academies are beginning to show an enrollment increase."

In the largest category, which includes 53 senior and junior colleges, regular FTE enrollment jumped 33.02 percent, from 81,596 to 108,490, and total enrollment rose 28.40 percent, from 94,167 to 120,908.

Southern Baptist theological seminaries showed the largest percentage increase in regular FTE enrollment, rising 55.16 percent, from 5,665 students in 1969-70 to 8,790 students in 1975-76.

In total enrollment, including

students in academic work which would not normally lead toward a degree, the seminaries jumped 37.45 percent, from 12,041 to 16,550.

The seminary figures include the SBC's six theological seminaries and American Baptist Theological Seminary (ABTS) Nashville, which draws support from Southern Baptists. ABTS alone enrolled 90 FTEs in 1969-70 and 181 in 1975-76. It enrolled 1,028 total students in 1969-70 and 831 in 1975-76. The decrease in total reflects decrease in extension study, not in on-campus enrollment at ABTS, which doubled.

Four Bible schools experienced a 42.89 percent FTE increase, rising from 785 to 1,128. Total enrollment went up from 807 to 1,128.

(Continued on page 2)

Congress Gets Resolution On Release Of Georgi Vins

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON (BP) — A Baptist minister in Congress introduced a resolution in the House of Representatives seeking to bring pressure on the Soviet Union to release another Baptist minister, who is in jail in Russia because of his religious activities.

U. S. Rep. John H. Buchanan (R-Ar.) introduced a House Concurrent Resolution asking Congress to say "that the Soviet Union should immediately release Georgi Vins from imprisonment and allow him and all other Christians and other religious believers within its borders to worship God freely according to their own conscience."

In a "dear colleague" letter to members of the House of Representatives, Buchanan said: "Repression of 'prisoners of conscience' by the Soviet Union continues today, despite the guarantees of that country's own constitution and the provisions of the United Nations Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which it ratified."

"Vins' crime" is that he would not submit the group he heads (the Council of Churches of Evangelical Christians - Baptists or CCECB) to the outrageous restrictions imposed by the Soviet state," Buchanan further explained to his colleagues.

When Vins tried to avoid arrest, the congressman continued, "he

was accused and subsequently convicted of vagrancy (not holding a job and hiding from the police), using religion for crime against the rights of citizens (living on the means of others), and violating church-state separation laws."

If approved by the House of Representatives, with the Senate concurring, the Buchanan resolution would become law.

of congressional opinion on the side of Vins, secretary of the CCECB, the dissident Baptist movement the Soviet government has called "illegal."

It is significant that the resolution is signed by the maximum number of co-sponsors, and by an equal number of Republicans and Democrats, including majority leader Thomas P. O'Neill (D-Mass.) and minority leader John J. Rhodes (R-Ariz.).

Earlier, Congressman Buchanan made a speech in the House of Representatives in which he reviewed the Vins experience in Russia. He said that "appeals have been pouring into the west in recent months from Soviet evan-

gelical Christians, seeking relief from oppression by authorities in their country."

In his speech to the House, Buchanan said: "Unless some action is taken on his behalf, Pastor Vins will surely die in a hard labor camp in Siberia."

The effort projected in Congress in favor of Vins is one of a number of efforts to effect relief

for the All-Union Council of Evangelical Christians - Baptists (AUCECB), with which the Vins group broke in 1955, has appeared before the Soviet government on behalf of the dissident group.

The Baptist World Alliance has been active in quiet efforts to obtain relief for Vins and other persecuted groups in Russia. The Baptist Joint Committee on Public Affairs and other religious organizations have likewise entered into the move to get Vins and others released from imprisonment.

Extensive reporting has been done on the situation in such media as the Christian Century.

(Continued on page 2)

In Vietnam

Former Missionary Notes Situation Since Exodus

By Irma Duke

RICHMOND (BP) — A year has passed since the last Southern Baptist missionaries barely escaped capture by Communist military forces in South Vietnam on April 28, 1975.

Only two days later, Saigon (now Ho Chi Minh City) was taken and South Vietnam fell.

Current reports indicate some churches in Vietnam are still functioning, even though missionaries have gone on to other fields of service.

However, there has been a decline in attendance, according to Samuel M. James, former missionary to Vietnam, temporarily serving as research assistant to the overseas division director for the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board.

Several factors have brought

The government wants all Protestant churches under one umbrella organization, James said. It hopes all will join together. Government control would be much easier that way.

Fear, of course, is another strong factor in declining church attendance. The people do not know what to expect from the government and are afraid they will be punished for worshipping.

Despite fear and pressure, James has word that the Christian student organization in Ho Chi Minh City still meets.

Information about the student group and about church activity is very difficult to obtain, according to James. Some comes to the United States through France where mail from Vietnam flows much easier due to long-time ties. Refugees in the United States fear undue pressure will be put on

March Increase Sends Income Past Budget

An increase for March of this year over the same month of last year amounting to 78.6 percent in Cooperative Program gifts from the churches of the Mississippi Baptist Convention has al-

Southern Baptist Schools Show Enrollment Rise

(Continued from page 1)
132 for a 40.27 percent increase.

Fisher said the Education Commission's statistical analysis of the enrollments reveals "remarkable results which run contrary to national trends toward declining enrollments."

"One of the most significant increases revealed by the analysis," Fisher said, "has been the increase in the number of vocational Christian workers enrolled on campuses of Baptist senior and junior colleges."

"Between the 1969-70 and 1975-76 school years," he said, "the number of vocational Christian workers on the college campuses have increased 55.42 percent, from 7,594 to 11,787."

Overall totals in that category in all 71 schools went up from 14,540 to 21,127 — a 45.30 percent increase.

"These figures are highly significant in the light of Southern Baptist need for trained church leadership," said William G. Tanner, chairman of the Education Commission and president of Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee.

"Many major denominations

are experiencing an increase, rather than a decrease, in the number of young people who are choosing one of the vocational ministries," Tanner commented.

Tanner attributed the increase in vocational workers to several things. "It is due, at least in part, to the emphasis on vocational Christian workers which the Education Commission has promoted for the past four years in the annual observance of Southern Baptist Seminary, College and School Day and through the Edu-

cation Commission's annual admissions workshop."

He also cited "a new commitment by the Association of Southern Baptist Colleges and Schools to assume more responsibility for recruiting and training church leadership."

Fisher said another important factor has been the cooperative of the SBC's Sunday School Board through its department of vocational guidance, publications, and summer assembly programs.

Former Missionary Notes Situation Since Exodus

(Continued from page 1)
ment. Of the 16 missionary couples and one missionary journeyman previously stationed in Vietnam, only five couples still await new assignments.

Three of the couples and the journeyman have been reassigned to Indonesia. Mr. and Mrs. Herman P. Hayes are involved in general evangelism there and Steve Brown has been transferred to complete his two years as a journeyman. Mr. and Mrs. James M. Gayle and Mr. and Mrs. Joe G. Turman are awaiting visa approval.

The Philippines received four of the displaced couples. Mr. and Mrs. James L. Kellum Jr. and Mr. and Mrs. Robert R. Compher have been transferred there to work in general evangelism. The Kenneth L. Goads are also in the Philippines, where he is acting treasurer of the Philippine Mission. Mr. and Mrs. William T. Roberson are involved in publications work.

The Peyton M. Moores and the James J. Bobo family moved to Hong Kong, where Bobo will be book store manager and Moore will be involved in mass communications.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Earl Bengs Jr. have been transferred to Singapore - Malaysia and are now in Sarawak. The James H. Lassiter are preparing to go to the Ivory Coast, where he will be involved in radio technology. They are in language study in France now.

Mr. and Mrs. Lewis I. Myers Jr. are in Atlanta, Ga., awaiting reassignment. He is on loan to the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board, where he serves as the Vietnamese language missions consultant in the department of language missions.

Three couples are living in Texas. The Samuel F. Longbottom

Jr. family is on furlough in Waco, while they wait for a new field of service. Mr. and Mrs. Gene V. Tunnell are living in Fort Worth. He is enrolled at the University of Texas at Arlington, working on a doctorate in social work, and she is attending Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. Mr. and Mrs. Robert C. Davis Jr. are also in Fort Worth. He is studying at Southwestern Seminary and she is studying at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Dr. and Mrs. Samuel M. James are temporarily living in Richmond, where he is doing research for the Foreign Mission Board. They are also awaiting a new assignment.

PraiSing '76 Scheduled At First Church, Jackson

PraiSing '76, a significant music event with a thrust on congregational singing and adult choirs is scheduled to begin Friday evening, April 30, at 7 p.m. at First Church, Jackson.

The Saturday morning, May 1, session will conclude at 1 p.m., according to J. M. Wood, coordinator.



Dr. William J. Reynolds, secretary of Church Music Department, Baptist Sunday School Board, Nashville, will be guest director of a mass choir, composed of all adult choir members attending.

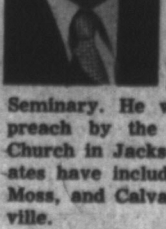
Ragan Courtney and his wife, Cynthia Clawson, from Dallas, Texas, will be guest personalities on Friday night and Saturday.



Ragan Courtney and Cynthia Clawson

Estes Called To West Point

Rev. Ronnie Estes has accepted the pastorate of Calvary Church, West Point, and has moved there from the pastorate of Highland Church, Bogalusa, Louisiana, where he had served for four years.



Mr. Estes is a graduate of Mississippi College and New Orleans Seminary. He was ordained to preach by the McDowell Road Church in Jackson. Other pastorate have included First Church, Moss, and Calvary Church, Ellisville.

He and his wife, Susan, have two children, Jennifer, 3, and Jamie, 5.

There are only two kinds of men: the righteous who believe themselves sinners; the rest, sinners, who believe themselves righteous. — Pascal



Church Related Vocations Banquet At BMC

The Department of Cooperative Missions, Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, recently sponsored a Student Church Related Vocations Banquet at Blue Mountain College. Seated, left to right are: Clifton Perkins, director of church-minister relations, MBCB; Dr. Earl Kelly, executive secretary-treasurer, Convention Board; and Dr. E. Harold Fisher, president of BMC. Standing is Therman Bryant, associate in the Cooperative Missions Department. Dr. James L. Travis is advisor for the BMC Ministerial Alliance.

Guatemala Will Be Subject For Day Camps

(Continued from page 1)

Day Camp participants will be learning about Guatemala this year, and leaders of day camps will have an opportunity to receive instruction and demonstration on unit presentation during the Day Camp workshop and conferences in May. Updated information on Guatemala will be available at the conferences.

A workshop scheduled for May 1 at Camp Garaywa will include unit activities presented by GA and Acteens leaders and Acteens members from First Baptist Church, Grenada.

The day is designed to be a "work" day for Day Camp staff members and leaders from local churches in the state. The workshop will be held from 10 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Cost for the workshop is \$1.50 per person, which includes lunch and insurance for the day. Groups should be registered for the Day Camp workshop by April 26 by sending names and the church represented to the WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205, a spokesman pointed out.

Four additional Day Camp conferences are scheduled for May 4 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at First Baptist Church, Holly Springs, and 7-9 p.m. at West-Heights Baptist, Pontotoc; and on May 6 from 9:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. at Easthaven Baptist, Brookhaven and from 7 to 9 p.m. at First Baptist, Meridian.

The Guatemala Day Camp unit will be presented by Miss Waudine Storey, Girls in Action and Mission Friends Director for Mississippi WMU, and Paul Harrell, Royal Ambassador Director for the Brotherhood Department in Mississippi.

Copies of the mission unit on Guatemala will be available at both the workshop and the conferences for 25 cents each.

"Plan now for a missions day camp in your church, secure your staff, and come to one of these day camp meetings," said Miss Marjean Patterson, WMU executive-secretary for Mississippi.

1st, Lexington Calls Ballard From Winona

Rev. Leon Ballard has accepted a call to the pastorate of First Church, Lexington, where he will assume duties on April 21.

Mr. Ballard will move to Lexington from Winona where he has been pastor of the North Winona Church since early 1973. North Winona Church will have a reception for Pastor Ballard and his family on Sunday evening, April 18, from 7:30 until 8:30 p.m.

During Ballard's time at North Winona the offering has increased from \$40,000 to \$84,000 per year and the church has added 162 new members. The average Sunday School attendance in 1973 was 150, and now is 203.

The church is presently in a "Together We Build" program which will let the church be debt free within two years. The church's indebtedness when Ballard assumed the pastorate was \$78,500. Since then a new parsonage has been bought for \$36,500 and the indebtedness has been decreased to \$62,000 at present. A church bus has been purchased and an audio cable T.V. ministry has been started.

During his pastorate at North Winona, Ballard has completed his work at New Orleans Seminary. Presently he is working in the chaplaincy program at East Mississippi State Hospital at Meridian. Before 1973 he was pastor at Weir.

Cooperative Program Celebration Set For SBC

(Continued from page 1)

final aspect of the Cooperative Program's 50th anniversary celebration," he said. "The multi-media presentation is designed to make Baptists aware of the Cooperative Program, and what it has accomplished."

"The special program has been in the planning stages since September when the Cooperative Program Forum asked the Stewardship Commission what the forum could do to help with Cooperative Program promotion."

The Cooperative Program Forum turned to the Radio and Television Commission for help because "one of the requirements for this program is that it be prepared for television magnification and the commission has the best experience for that kind of production."

A. R. Fagan, Stewardship Commission executive director-treasurer, has coordinated efforts for the production. Jesse Fletcher, pastor of First Baptist Church, Knoxville, Tenn., will write York, music director of "The Centurymen," is program director with "The Adler of Dallas Theater 3" in charge of staging. Bob Thornton of the Radio and Television Commission's Television department is program producer.

Congress Get Resolution On Release Of Vins

(Continued from page 1)
Christianity Today, the New York Times, Religious News Service (RNS), the Baptist Press (BP) news service, books about Vins, and the Keston News Service of the Centre for the Study of Religion and Communism at Keston College, Keston, Kent, England.

An independent organization called "Christian Prisoners' Release International," with offices in California and in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, has set May 8 as a day for a series of "marches for the persecuted church." These plans call for the presentation of petitions signed by a half million persons to Russian embassies throughout the world to demand the release of Pastor Georgi Vins.

In spite of the protests, the Russian government claims that there is religious freedom in the Soviet Union and that those who are suffering are doing so because of their violation of the laws of the nation, rather than as a result of religious persecution.

Glorieta Is Accepting Staff Applications

Glorieta Baptist Conference Center is now accepting applications for youth and adults to participate in the 1976 summer staff program. This includes opportunity for study growth fun and service.

Apply to Staff Coordinator, Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, P. O. Box 8, Glorieta, New Mexico 87535.

In Jackson "The Hiding Place" Still Being Shown

"The Hiding Place," the widely acclaimed film concerning the famed Dutch Christians, Corrie ten Boom and her family, who suffered terrible persecution under Hitler because of their protection of Jews, is still being shown in Jackson, and will continue to be at least through April 22, according to James Carr, who is cooperating with World Wide Pictures in the promotion of the film here. World Wide Pictures is a part of the Billy Graham organization.

The film had its local premiere in Jackson Square theatre, where it was shown for several weeks. However, last week it was moved to Cinema West, which is located off Lynch Street, just west of Ellis Avenue. Through the week it is being shown at 7:00 and 9:45 each evening, and on Saturday and Sunday two afternoon showings, 1:30 and 4:15 are added.

More than 15,000 persons already have seen the film in Jackson, and hundreds more are seeing it each night. Reservations or special tickets are no longer required, according to Mr. Carr.

Send In Those SBC Room Deposits!

NORFOLK (BP)—Room reservations at Norfolk area hotels which have no deposit for the price of the first night's lodging by April 15 will be made available to anyone willing to make that deposit, on a first-come-first-served basis despite previous reservations, according to the Southern Baptist Convention (SBC) Housing Bureau here.

The bureau cautions persons who have received confirmation on hotels or motels rooms but have not sent in the required deposit to the hotel to do so immediately.

"Norfolk is a summer resort area and hotels and motels refuse to hold rooms without the deposit," a housing bureau spokesman said.

The transportation committee of the Norfolk Baptist Association has also announced that local buses will adequately serve public transportation needs during the SBC annual meeting, June 15-17, and earlier related meetings.

"There will be hourly connections each day of the convention week with area hotels and motels," says Paul Mims, pastor of First Baptist Church, Norfolk.

"Individual passes will provide service for the entire period on shuttle buses serving Norfolk, Virginia Beach and Portsmouth. The passes may be secured at transportation desks at the Scope Convention Center, site of the convention," he said.

"Initial trips to the Scope on Sunday, Monday and Tuesday, June 13, 14 and 15, may be made without charge to the riders, but the passes must be in hand for a return journey."

"Transportation data sheets will be included in individual convention packets received by messengers to the convention, and the sheets will be available in all hotel rooms," he added.

Nelson Heads Committee To Study Audit Guide

A. L. Nelson, comptroller-business manager for the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, has been named chairman of a committee appointed by the State Business Officers Association to initiate a study and provide a suggestion for a common, uniform, easy-to-read and understand financial statement.

The committee is to meet April 22-23 in Memphis, Nelson said, and the first step in the process "will be one of definitions."

"This is a study only at this point," Nelson emphasized. "There is no uniform audit guide for state organizations, and this committee has been asked to come up with one. If and when such a guide is presented, its use on the part of state organizations will be strictly voluntary," he pointed out.

"We are looking for a simple,

easy-to-understand public statement of assets and liabilities and what is done with the money," he added.

Other members of the committee are James Glaze, Alabama; Wesley Bowman, Louisiana; Roger Hall, Missouri; and Clyde Clayton, Oklahoma, the president of the State Business Officers Association.

A teacher asked her class, "When can you see farther, at night or in the daytime?" "In the daytime," cried the students. "You're wrong," said the teacher. "The most distant object you can see in the daytime is the sun. But at night you can see the stars, and they're millions of times farther away."

The Death Of Jesus Christ

Thursday, April 15, 1976

BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 3

(Continued from page 1)

stone area, in front of the Senate Building. The post was four feet high, and the man was stripped naked and his hands were tied over this post so his knees wouldn't touch the ground. He couldn't stand erect, and he was beaten with this flagellum until he was unconscious. Usually they tell us, it took about 2 1/2 minutes. The pieces of leather would cut and hurt some, but the thing that was most painful was when the piece of bone or length piece of chain would strike the skin, especially with a piece of bone on it. It would break the blood vessel under the skin. There is always a nerve with a blood vessel. I guess it is just like multiple bee stings and man couldn't take very much of this, but Jesus was whipped that way until he became unconscious. Scourging did not stop at this point. You don't sentence a man to be scourged and crucified. You don't sentence a man to 20 years in prison and electric chair. Pilate knew he had a way out here. But when Jesus became unconscious and hung by his hands, the man Jesus the victor would walk over and count his pulse and feel his respiration and if he could feel a pulse, he continued the scourging. That's the reason it was called "near death." Jesus was beaten while he was unconscious. His pulse was so thin and rapid that the lictor couldn't count it. Then they revived him, stood him up and put his clothes back on him and then they gave him to the Roman soldiers. Pilate took him back inside again, the book of John said. And it was there that they spat upon him again and put the crown of thorns upon his head, the reed in his hand and then took the reed out of his hand and beat him on the head with a crown of thorns. Jesus probably didn't even feel that, but he lost some more blood because the biggest blood supply on the body is in the scalp. Jesus still did not complain. You see Jesus was half dead before they ever put him on the cross. If he'd been admitted to our emergency room after being scourged and what he had been through the night before, he'd have been put in the intensive care and intravenous fluids and oxygen started on him. They revived him some more and then Pilate told them to take him to be crucified. Three of the Gospel writers said that Simon of Cyrene took his cross, but John says Christ started out with it.

The Romans were experts at crucifixions. They crucified 10,000 men after the defeat of Spartacus. History tell us that they hung on both sides of the highway out of Rome for 19 miles, one cross after another. They had gotten it from the Phoenicians. The Phoenicians used to boil people in oil for stealing and when you threw a man in boiling oil, he lived 3 seconds. That just wasn't enough to deter crime, so they started hanging them in tree. If you hang a man in a tree, he lives 12 days. They didn't have enough soldiers to station a man that long with him, so they started nailing them to the tree. They nailed them on a pedestal. A man lived 4 or 5 days. The Romans had gotten this science of crucifixion down to such an extent they could predict with-

in four hours how long a man would live on that cross by how much they bent his knees and where they nailed his feet to the cross and his hands. They were experts at it. They tied this crosspiece which weighed about 30 lbs over a man's shoulder for him to carry with his hands together. We know what happened to Jesus when they put that on him because John says, "He started with it." He stumbled and fell with a crown of thorns on his head and fell right on it. No wonder they had to get another. The soldier wouldn't even tell him to get up and carry it. He could look at the man and tell he couldn't walk, much less carry a 30 lb crosspiece, but Simon the Cyrene took it and went to Golgotha and the crucifixion began.

The man that did the crucifying had 3 soldiers assigned to him. He had a five-flanged nail, because you see if you nailed a man to the cross and this man became hysterical and galled himself off, the official not only lost his job, but he went to jail. He knew how to nail a man to the cross when he couldn't come off.

They took Jesus up to Golgotha. They kicked his feet out from under him and laid him on that crosspiece, 6 square inches, 6 feet long. And the Bible says they put the nail through the hand. People used to argue about this, but you go back to the Greek word in anatomy for hand that includes the wrist and the nail was put right between the bones in the wrist because there are ligaments at each end and there is no way in the world that you pull yourself off of a nail that way. The one blow of that five flanged nail, with a soldier's knee on the elbow and one on the shoulder, went right through the wrist. He didn't even feel it and Jesus didn't cry out. He didn't complain. Since the night before Jesus had nothing to eat or drink and he had nothing but cursing and reviling and beating. He was bloody. He was bowed. He told the women walking up there, "now don't cry for me, cry for yourselves. Then the other hand was nailed, but then Jesus felt something that hurt because when they lifted the center piece up they didn't pick the man up and put him on there. They picked the crosspiece up and drug him and put it on the mortise in the center. There are two nerves, the median and ulna nerves. One of them is sensory and motor. When they pick a man up and drag him by those nails between his wrists, he gets a muscle spasm in his hands and he gets pain all the way up and down his arm, but Jesus didn't cry out. And then they crossed the right foot over the left and another miraculous thing happened. They put a five flanged nail through both feet right above that big bone that sits where your shoe ties right over the navicular bone and did not break it. No bones were broken in Jesus' body, but the perforation in the lining was stripped off of it and that's where the nerve endings are, and that's the most painful part of the crucifixion nailing those two feet with one nail. Jesus didn't make any long speeches. He couldn't. He said, "Father, forgive them for they

know not what they do." Have you ever wondered if God answered that prayer? Think about it.

He hung on that cross, and as man hangs on a cross, it's more comfortable and easier for him to hang with his hands on the nails, without the pressure on his feet. Jesus hung that way for 30 minutes. They put him on the cross about 9 o'clock in the morning and he was on the cross for 6 1/2 hours. The first three hours it was light and then it was dark. After he had been hanging by those nails in his arms about 30 minutes, he found himself getting short of breath. He could breathe in, but he couldn't breathe out. The muscles of expiration are the pectoral muscles and these were the muscles by which his whole body was hanging. They became weak and tired. He couldn't breathe out. He was getting short of breath. He had no other alternative except to stand on the nails in his feet and when a man was crucified, that's the way he stayed on that cross. He hung by his arms until he couldn't breathe and then he stood on the nails in his feet until he couldn't stand any more - pain from the spasm in his legs. He couldn't tolerate it any more. He'd slump and he'd stand. He'd slump and he'd stand. Each time the interval getting shorter and shorter. He still didn't complain and then at noon it became dark and the sins of the world were placed upon the shoulders of Jesus - yours and mine.

You see when Jesus was made to be sin, God didn't let anybody look on his face. A miracle - this was not an eclipse. This was a miracle. The Bible said it was dark all over the world - not in Jerusalem - all over the world, and nobody looked on the Saviour's face, but you know God is a holy and righteous God and he wouldn't look at him either. He turned his back and the Bible said, "After three more hours of darkness and bearing the sins of the world, Jesus cried out, 'My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?'" This was what Jesus dreaded in the Garden of Gethsemane. Here was man Jesus who had never been separated from the Father, from the beginning. And Jesus said, "I've never known sin. I've known about it, but will I be able to tolerate sin and stay on that cross and not use my power as God to come off." He said, "I believe I can take the sin, but can I be separated from my Father." That's the reason He agonized in the Garden of Gethsemane. Jesus wasn't worried about the pain and the dying, but knowing what sin was, one man's sin would have been enough, but the world's was put upon his shoulders. God didn't look at him. He turned his back, but neither would He let anybody else look at him. Jesus cried out, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me?"

We learn John 3:16 "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son." I know of no man and no writer that can express or explain to me the love of God. There has been many a

man who has given his son to his country, but I know of no man who loves his son, who would let him drown while he cried out to him, "Father, help me." You see God had the power to take Jesus off the cross. That's how much that little word "so" means in John 3:16. It is really the biggest word in the Bible. God so loved you and loves you so much that He left His son on the cross, crying out "my God, my God, why hast thou forsaken me."

The Jewish people were religious people. This was Friday afternoon and Friday at sundown became the Sabbath, and they didn't want people hanging on the cross. So they go and get permission to break the legs of these men on the cross and you know what happened. When they broke those legs, a man couldn't push up and he died of suffocation in 30 minutes. They came and broke the legs of the first and the other that was crucified with him, but when they came to Jesus and saw that he was dead already, a soldier with a spear pierced His side and forthwith came there out blood and water. There's been a lot of writing in the medical literature about this scripture and it wasn't until 12 or 15 years ago, that God let me understand the scripture.

Many people writing about this said that Jesus had tuberculosis of the heart and He bled before death. Some said He had an aneurysm; some a broken heart, but you see the scripture said he was a perfect physical specimen. Jesus had no disease, but there is a condition that occurs when man has a severe trauma. The first time I saw it was in a boy on a motorcycle accident. For some unknown reason we don't understand it even today. The stomach begins to dilate. It goes all the way up to the neck and down to the hips and the lining of that stomach pours out gastric juices and blood; and when a man bleeds before he dies, out of his blood vessels anywhere in his body, that blood does not clot after death. You see Jesus died a man. He died of an acute gastric dilatation on the cross and there's no way in the world the soldier could have put a spear in him without blood and water coming forth. And his record is true: and he knoweth that he said true, that ye might believe.



"He Is Not Here..."

And when the sabbath was past, Mary Magdalene, and Mary the mother of James, and Salome, had bought sweet spices that they might come and anoint him. And very early in the morning, the first day of the week, they came unto the sepulchre at the rising of the sun. . . . When they looked, they saw that the stone was rolled away . . . and entering into the sepulchre, they saw a young man sitting on the right side, clothed in a long white garment; and they were affrighted. And he saith unto them. . . . Ye seek Jesus of Nazareth, which was crucified: he is risen; he is not here. . . (Mark 16:1-6).

Well you see, I believed it all the time. Then God let me understand it, although it wasn't necessary, because I knew it was true all the time.

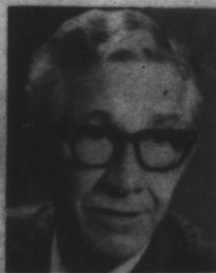
There are a lot of mysteries in the scripture; but the scripture is true, every bit of it. It's true when it said that on the third day He arose. It's true when it says He is sitting on the right hand of God. It's true when it says there's only one mediator between God and man, the man Jesus Christ. The

humanity of Christ ended on the cross, but the glorified body that Christ has today is the same body that man is promised today that is born again of Christ.

The scripture is the final authority, and it blesses my heart to sit in my church and hear my pastor hold up the scripture and proclaim its authoritative message. The Bible is true even though there are many who do not believe it. It should be the final authority in our lives. This I believe!

Area Evangelism Conferences

For: Pastors, Laymen, Women, Young People
PROCLAMATION 76 IN YOUR CHURCH
CONFERENCE LEADERS



W. Douglas Hudgins



G. Barry Landrum



Roy Collum

DATES and PLACES

April 26—Parkway Baptist, Natchez
April 27—First Baptist, Crystal Springs
April 29—Pass Road Baptist, Gulfport

SCHEDULE:

7:15 Congregational Singing
Prayer
Welcome

PASTORS:

Rev. Gerald P. Buckley
Rev. A. Estus Mason
Rev. A. M. Moore, III

Mr. Graham Smith

Host Pastor

Baptist Minister Featured In Prime Time TV Special

AUSTIN, Tex. (BP) — "Nagasaki — One Man's Return," a chronicle of Baptist pastor and ex-Marine Buckner Fanning's nostalgic return to Nagasaki to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the dropping of the Atomic Bomb there, will be aired on syndicated network television April 20, 9 p.m., central time.

Fanning, now pastor of San Antonio's Trinity Baptist Church, was in Nagasaki with the U. S. Marine Corps for a year following the atomic blast and more follow-



The Baptist Record

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

EDITORIAL

"He Lives!"

The greatest fact of history! Jesus Christ arose from the grave and is alive forever more! Paul said that He was "declared to be the Son of God with power, according to the spirit of holiness, by the resurrection from the dead." (Rom. 1:4)

Jesus himself said "I am He that liveth, and was dead; and, behold, I am alive for evermore." (Rev. 1:18)

Yes, it is the greatest fact ever recorded in the annals of man.

Furthermore, it is one of the most indisputable facts of history. Never has there been stronger evidence of any historical event than that which testifies of this truth.

All the rantings and ravings of the skeptics have not removed one single item of the proof.

Doubtings and denials of unbelievers of two thousand years, have not erased one word from the record.

Jesus Christ did die for our sins, and He was buried, but He arose on the third day.

Peter knew it for he saw Him, talked with Him and ate a meal with Him. Furthermore, he had seen in the tomb, the grave clothes fallen flat, the clear evi-

dence that Christ had risen from the grave.

James knew it, for the Lord appeared to him.

Mary knew it, for she evidently was the very first one to whom He appeared. She heard His loving words, and His clear commission to go tell the disciples. Other women also knew it, for they, too, saw Him.

The apostles knew it for He appeared to them on a number of occasions. They saw His nail scarred hands, and heard His glorious commands. They also watched as He ascended into heaven after His post-resurrection appearances were completed.

John, the apostle whom Jesus loved" knew it, for he, along with the others, saw and talked with the Lord, recognized the evidence at the empty tomb, and then, many years later, saw Him and heard Him in the glorious Patmos experience.

The Emmaus disciples knew it, for they walked with Him, sat down to dine with Him, heard Him as He conversed with them, and then in wonder saw Him disappear after revealing Himself to them.

More than 500 of the disciples who

had known Him and followed Him during His ministry, knew it for He appeared to that number at one time.

Paul knew it, for he met the living Christ on the Damascus Road in an experience which completely changed his life.

When there are as many witnesses as this, how could any reasonable person in the world refuse to believe?

Yet, there is more proof! He lives in Christians today, even as He has lived in the hearts of millions of believers through the almost 2,000 years since He walked on the earth, died on the cross, and rose again the third day.

Christ lives in the heart of every believer! He changes lives, blesses hearts, empowers His own.

The song writer says, "You ask me how I know He lives; He lives within my heart."

And another writer adds, "Because He lives I can face tomorrow."

It is the greatest fact of history! It is the greatest fact of life!

It is the reason the world observes Easter!

Christ lives! Hallelujah!

Legislative Concerns

(Editor's Note: We asked Dr. J. Clark Hensley of the Christian Action Commission to comment on the current legislative situation on church-state and/or moral issues. This is his report.)

Alcohol users should pay part of the tab for alcohol abuse is the philosophy back of the bill to finance the "Alcoholism Treatment, Rehabilitation, Prevention and Education Fund." The proceeds from revenue produced would be earmarked for use by the Division of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism of the State Department of Mental Health for creating "public or private centers or organizations" for the purposes stated. With the estimate of 64,000 problem drinkers in Mississippi (more than double the estimate of ten years ago) and with each of them affecting the lives of at least five other persons, it means that more than 300,000 Mississippians are touched by alcohol problems. The proposed legislation, Senate Bill No. 2231, passed by a 28 to 15 vote and is now in the House

Ways and Means Committee. The principle back of this bill is sound. The programs are needed. It is hoped that the House will act promptly to implement the concept and join a number of other states who have similar methods to fund alcohol abuse prevention and - or the rehabilitation of the abuser.

The Native Wine Bill (Senate Bill No. 2172) has passed the Senate and is now in the House. This bill would make it possible for the producer of native wine to sell direct to the consumer, which is the most obnoxious feature - a long with the small bond and fees needed to obtain a license to manufacture and sell. It would increase the alcohol sales outlets in wet counties and compound other law enforcement problems. If experience is any teacher, it would increase the consumption of alcohol and permit wine up to 5 per cent proof. Since alcohol is already the number one drug abuse problem in Mississippi, we would hope that the House members will be more concerned

for the large numbers of Mississippians who will be hurt by such legislation over against the few who will financially profit from it.

(The two above-mentioned measures will be acted upon soon - before April 21).

A matter of special importance to some churches will have to be brought out of the House Judiciary A Committee and voted upon by April 15: Senate Bill No. 2786 deals with the extension of tax exemption on church property to include houses owned by a church and furnished other staff members other than the pastor. These are non-revenue producing properties and were not included when the law was written, as only the pastor's residence was then owned by churches. It is hoped that this bill will be passed by the House. We oppose exemption from taxation of revenue-producing property owned by churches but consider this bill to be in line with traditional tax exemption practices and appropriate in church-state relationships. —JCH

On The MORAL SCENE...

LOWER DEATH RATE — The United States had a lower death rate in 1974 than in any year since records were begun in 1900, according to final figures released recently by the National Center for Health Statistics. Major contributions to the record were declines in death rates from heart disease, stroke and accidents. The fact that the country was largely free of influenza in 1974 also helped, according to the national center's vital statistics report. Cancer, suicide and homicide death rates, however, were the highest ever recorded. (The New York Times, February 4, 1976)

INDIANS AND THE BICENTENNIAL — American Indians ask themselves whether they should celebrate, oppose, or ignore the Bicentennial. "Who wants to celebrate a 200-year-old rip-off?" asks author Vine Deloria of the Sioux. "There are 300 broken treaties. In the past 100 years our lands, water, minerals have been taken away." Nevertheless, Deloria serves on a Bicentennial Commission, for Indian leaders are recognizing that the courts of the same nation that plundered them can get them justice. . . . Many tribes have successfully reclaiming their long ignored rights to mineral and oil deposits, water systems, forests, hunting and fishing areas by legal action. Through the courts they are stalling strip mining, agricultural development and power plant construction. . . . The tribes have sent their own young men to law schools; many of them now serve on tribal councils with integrity and skill. Tribal leaders are organizing research staffs and are filing suits that void business deals through which they have been cheated. (Between the Lines, February 15, 1976)

CRIME DIGEST — Forty-five percent of the persons arrested for serious crimes throughout the United States during 1974 were under 18 years of age. Persons under the age of 15 made up 19 percent of these arrests. During the 5-year period, 1969-74, violent crime arrests for persons under 18 years of age increased 48 percent while the property crime arrests in-

creased 30 percent. . . . According to a summary of 207,748 offenders in the FBI's Computerized Criminal History file of the National Crime Information Center who were arrested during the period 1970-74, 65 percent had been arrested two or more times. These individuals had an average criminal career of five years and five months (number of years between first and last arrest) during which time they were arrested an average of four times each. — (FBI Law Enforcement Bulletin, Vol. 45, No. 2, P. 25, February 1976)

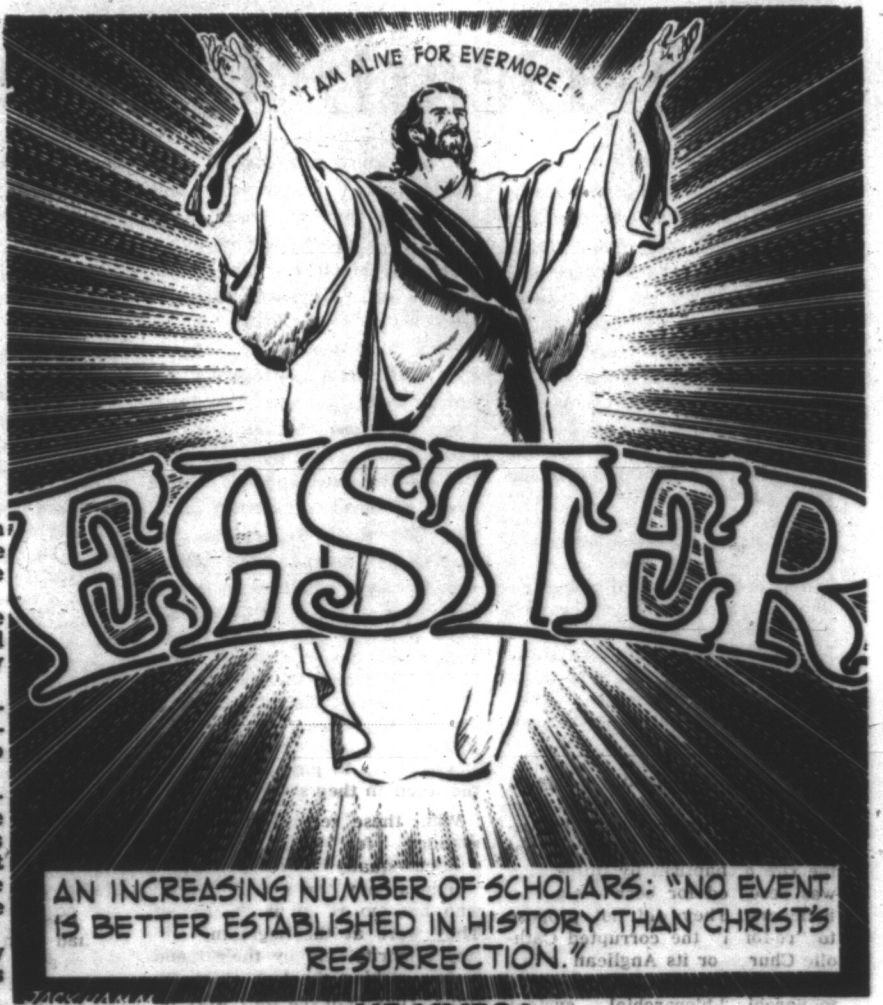
POLITICS AND CHRISTIAN MISSIONS — The need for all Christian organizations serving in non-Christian lands to be free of politics and from ties to any particular economic system has become imperative in the consideration of world church leaders. The average American layman's great ignorance in this respect was exhibited by President Ford when he rejected petitions from leading U.S. missionary organizations—Methodist, Episcopal, Presbyterian, Baptist, etc. — which urged that all approaches by CIA agents to American missionary personnel abroad be officially forbidden. Instructions are going out to Christian workers from nearly all U.S. denominational directors to refrain from such collaboration. Ignoring the CIA's unsavory record in foreign capitals, Ford said that patriotic Americans, including missionaries, should willingly help to further their country's interests, including assistance to CIA operatives. (Between the Lines, Vol. XXXV, No. 5, March 1, 1976)

Some families can trace their ancestry back three hundred years but can't tell you where their children were last night.

If you don't think money goes far, get out your geography.

May education never become as expensive as ignorance.

Long tongues will mean short friends.



THE BAPTIST FORUM

Christ Lives Now (A Testimony)

Dear Dr. Odle:

Nine o'clock, on Sunday morning, March 21, found me sitting in the third pew from the front on the left side of the auditorium of Briarlake Baptist Church, Greater Atlanta, Georgia. Both the architecture and the artistry of the newly erected structure for worship generates an atmosphere of effective soul — searching communion with God.

On the minute, the first of the two morning services started. At the conclusion of the hymn and special music part of the service, Rev. Hoffman Harris, the only pastor the church has ever known, stepped up to the microphone and announced his subject: "Christ is Alive Now. He used First Corinthians, Chapter 15 as the framework for his message. He followed his opening remark that "this is a pre-Easter sermon"—with the words "life without God is empty." And, from the Nobel Prize winner Alexander Solzhenitsyn he quoted: "I see spiritual Christianity as the only healing power for Russian despotism."

The life-gripping sinews of the sermon came from the resurrection of Christ from the tomb. Rev. Harris succinctly revealed that this "is the strongest proof THAT HE LIVES — THAT CHRIST IS ALIVE NOW."

In Paul's own words, Rev. Harris concluded his message: "Even in the end Christ appeared to me." FOR CHRIST IS RISEN! HE IS ALIVE NOW!

The living divinity of the Messiah entered into my own inner spiritual and inner self in this service. As the Spirit-filled seconds ticked away, the power of the Living Christ took over full control of my inner thought processes.

Christ was in full charge. He moved through the soul of Rev. Harris to reflect the Resurrected Christ already alive in the hearts of the members of his congregation.

As soon as the service ended I placed my right arm around the pastor's shoulder and told him that throughout the service the Living Christ had laid on my heart a moral obligation to God to pray consistently that CHRIST ALIVE NOW enter into the heart of every American between now and November, 1976. This is the surest way for Christ to live in the hearts of everyone throughout the length and breadth of "the land of the free and the home of the brave."

As "security is man's chiefest foe," prayer is his strongest weapon against evil." As a result, "More things are wrought through prayer than this little world dreams of."

I promised Bro. Harris I would pray consistently between now and November that the Holy Spirit will dwell as CHRIST ALIVE NOW in the heart of every American.

I invite other Christians to accept this testimony as a challenge and pass it on.

This is the best way of guaranteeing the security of the U.S.A. and "THE STARS AND STRIPES FOREVER."

Hudson Landsell
3511 Kings Highway
Jackson, Mississippi

Pastor Praises Baptist Film

Dear Editor:

Recently our church had the opportunity to see the film, "The Whale That Came To Mississippi." The response of our people was most encouraging. The film is not only professionally made but does an excellent job of presenting the work of Mississippi Baptists. Surely ev-



Town Mob Ridicules Baptists On Immersion

PEPPERELL, Mass., June, 1776 (BP) — Because of abuse, threats, and ridicule from a mob led by town authorities, Baptists made three separate attempts here to finally baptize six converts in a single day.

During the second baptism attempt, a law enforcement officer told Baptist ministers conducting the service to leave town "for their own safety."

The Baptists met in a field near a river for worship and the baptismal service, but during worship the mob broke up the meeting. To ridicule the Baptists, a dog was dipped in the river as the mob laughed.

A Pepperell resident invited the ministers and congregation to his house to conduct the baptismal service in a nearby river. But the mob followed. This time two dogs were dipped, and members of the mob mocked the Baptists by dipping each other.

It was then an officer warned the ministers to leave town. They asked if they would be in danger if they remained, but received no answer. The second meeting was dispersed and the Baptists secretly agreed to go to a third location. This time they escaped the mob momentarily and the six candidates were baptized. Shortly after the ceremony, however, the agitators subjected the Baptists to further abuse and ridicule.

Not even war with England halted persecution of Baptists by Massachusetts authorities. Because of their opposition to the state church and their fight for religious liberty, Baptists faced bitter oppression in New England. They proved by supporting their country's cause, however, that they were as ardently devoted to civil liberty as they were to religious freedom.

(Prepared for Baptist Press by the Southern Baptist Historical Commission, Nashville.)

every Baptist in our state can be proud of this film.

I understand that a copy of the film has been made available to the Director of Missions in most of the associations. It would be a great loss for any church in our state to fail to take advantage of the opportunity to see this great film.

Bobby Walton, Pastor
Yale Street Baptist Church
Cleveland, Mississippi

The Baptist Record

515 Mississippi Street
Jackson, Miss. 39201

Joe T. Odle Editor
Don McGregor Associate Editor
Anne McWilliams Editorial Associate
William H. Sellers Bus. Manager

Official Journal of The
MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST
CONVENTION BOARD

Earl Kelly
Executive Secretary-Treasurer
The Baptist Building
Box 530, Jackson, Miss. 39205

Baptist Record Advisory Committee: J. B. Fowler, McComb; Vance Dyess, Pearl; James Carr, Jackson; Forrest Cork, Aberdeen; Ed Harris, Houston; Hardy Deabum, Newnan.

Subscription \$2.00 a year payable in advance. Published weekly except week of July 4 and Christmas. Second Class Postage paid at Jackson, Mississippi. The Baptist Record is a member of the Southern Baptist Press Association and the Evangelical Press Association.

What Our Impoverished Baptist Ancestors Risked To Win

What We Their Prosperous Progeny May Lose

First of a Bicentennial Series

By Gaines S. Dobbins

This generation of Baptists seems not to be greatly interested in history. Henry Ford once called history "bunk!" We'd better not agree with him! History lights the path of the future.



Taking this look, we see that Baptists played a major role at costly risks.

At the beginning of American colonization there were few of the people called Baptists. Their ancestry dated back to Switzerland, Holland, England. Derisively they were called "rebaptizers," later just "baptizers," because they insisted that the rite of baptism by immersion be reserved for born-again believers. They did not propose to "re-form" the corrupted Catholic Church or its Anglican offshoot, but to establish a whole new, non-hierarchical system and inaugurate civil government and free church order after New Testament principles.

What did they stand to suffer? This list of their disabilities is long and impressive: loss of citizenship, community respect, property rights, freedom of worship, exemption from unjust imprisonment and subjection to corporal punishment—even loss of life itself.

These humble people loved life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness. They were well aware that their struggle was against almost overwhelming odds. They knew that the Puritan Establishment was as ruthless in determination to stamp out dissent as had been Catholicism and Anglicanism in the Old Country. They were well aware that those who fostered revolution against the British Crown were courting death. They were not romantic idealists but sober realists. They were willing to pay the price for the freedom they sought.

What these revolutionaries demanded for themselves they wanted equally for every other religious body and even for those who had no religious affiliation. They were at the beginning a tiny minority and by their stand were making the loss of everything they believed they were on God's side—and with him would win.

Two hundred years later we

turn the light on ourselves and ask: "What have we to lose by our stand as inheritors of the radicalism of these brave ancestors? The answer is: 'Very little, if anything.' We have become a favored and generally accepted religious body. We are a mighty host, with a varied constituency representing many social and economic levels, confined to no race or color, under no ecclesiastical authority, coerced by no creed, yet with an amazing unity of faith and practice. Proudly we may be tempted to say, 'We have it made! We've come to the kingdom for such a time as this!'"

Soberly we do well to pause and ask ourselves, looking back to the early years of struggle, yet of

astonishing growth, "What may we now stand to lose?" Perhaps the answer will be found in the risen Lord's message to the church at Ephesus: "I know what you have done; I know how hard you have worked and how patient you have been. I know that you cannot tolerate evil men, and that you have tested those who say they are apostles but are not, and have found out that they are liars. You are patient, you have suffered troubles for my sake, and you have not given up. But here is what I have against you: you do not love me now as you did at first. Remember how far you have fallen! Turn from your sins and do what you did at first. If you don't, I

will come to you and take your lamp-stand from its place" (Rev. 2:2-6 TEV).

What was their lost "first love"? Love for Jesus as manifested in their love for the lost and passion to see them saved. If this love grows cold and the gospel light grows dim, we may well be warned that our lamp-stand will be removed and our future be turned into a gray memory of a once glorious but now irrecoverable past.

(Note: Dr. Dobbins is one of Southern Baptists' most distinguished writers-professors emeritus. He taught for many years at Southern Seminary, Louisville, Ky., and also taught at Golden Gate Seminary.)

WMU To Promote Hymn Writing Contest

Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union is beginning preparation for her Centennial Year of 1977-1978.

Many exciting events will be taking place as 100 years of women's work through Woman's Missionary Union are explored, examined, relived, and celebrated during this year.

One special activity being promoted for the Centennial is a hymn writing contest. The theme for the Mississippi WMU Centennial is to be "Our Best For God." Every woman or young person who would like to participate in this contest should write words about the Centennial and set the words to the tune of "Our Best."

Entries in this contest should be sent to the WMU Office, Box 530, Jackson, Mississippi 39205 not later than August 1, 1976.

Winner will be notified by mail and will be publicized in the Baptist Record.



A Woman's World Reaches For
Beyond the Ironing Board

Wilda Fendler

An interesting discussion took place in my HOOFBEAT period the other day. The HOOFBEAT is Murrah High's school paper, of which I am the sponsor. No work was needed on the paper, so the editor was finishing some homework in another course. A question she had to answer was, "If black absorbs all light that hits it, why do we see black?"

"Because it's there?" I said.

She said she felt sure her teacher would accept that. While she looked for the answer we joked some more about it. Then she found the answer: the Helmholtz color vision theory, established by Thomas Young and refined by Helmholtz. According to these two men, there are three types of nerve receptors in the eye—for blue, for green, for red. If none of these receptors is stimulated, we see black. How about that?

If any of these receptors do not function properly, we see a color that isn't true. The combination of receptors stimulated makes possible our perception of color. This is probably very oversimplified, particularly for those of you who are well-versed in such scientific things, but it was quite interesting to me. It must have been years since I thought about black and white not being colors.

Reckon what all this made me think about? The moral receptors in a Christian's spiritual eye. It must be that these moral receptors—for things like honesty, morality, integrity—are not working at properly sensitive levels and we aren't seeing things like they really are. There are so many things going on now that are sinful, plainly evil, but we're seeing them as less than that.

Know what a euphemism is? It's a term used to take the cutting edge off something. A for instance: calling a garbage collector a sanitation expert. The euphemisms we are using for sin are not really taking the cutting edge off the heart-breaking results of sin.

Sad, isn't it?

Member Says

"Finest Little Church In Mississippi"

By Joe McKeever

Pastor, First, Columbus

I had been in Columbus only a few weeks when someone told me about the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church. Running into an acquaintance known in a former city, I asked where she went to church. She smiled and said, "I go to the finest little church in Mississippi." And for the next five minutes she raved about the Pleasant Hill Baptist Church.

Located eight miles outside Columbus in the open rural country, the Pleasant Hill church surely is one of Mississippi's finest churches. Under pastor George Myers' leadership since 1970, the church has grown in many ways, but especially in the ministry of loving one another and caring for those who need their help.

I hesitated to quote statistics, since it's impossible to put love and compassion in numbers. Suffice it to say that Pleasant Hill has grown steadily in these five years—from an average of 113 to over 200 in Sunday School and from sixty-one to almost 150 in Church Training. In fact, it is one of the few churches anywhere that has almost as many in attendance on Sunday and Wednesday nights as it does on Sunday morning.

In fact it is the only rural

church to my knowledge that has an early morning worship service. This was added to their program in January 1976 and averages seventy-five in attendance. The house is still packed at the eleven o'clock hour.

One of the outstanding features of the church is its love for unsaved people. Almost every week sees people saved. In the last three years the pastor has baptized 144 persons.

Probably because Brother Myers saw the way I admired his church, I was invited to preach for their revival in August, 1975. One feature especially appreciated was that when persons responded to the invitation, each one was personally dealt with by various members of the church. There seemed to be no organized corps of counselors; they simply moved forward and did their work as needed!

In 1970 when Myers arrived as pastor, Pleasant Hill was giving \$50 a month through the Cooperative Program. He soon led the church to go to the percentage plan. They are now giving 30% of all undesignated gifts through the Cooperative Program. Myers' personal goal is to increase this 5% annually until reaching 50% (In

1975, with a total church income of \$80,004, Pleasant Hill gave \$12,276 to the Cooperative Program.)

Recently as I was telling the Pleasant Hill story to a friend, he commented, "I'll bet their pastor is a real stern-winder, isn't he?" George Myers laughs at this because it demonstrates our faulty reasoning that spiritual and statistical growth is built on powerful human personality.

George Myers is a soft-spoken unassuming man of age 41 who never attracts attention to himself. He will sit all day in a denominational meeting or committee assignment and never utter a word. When he preaches, the people in the rear of the building have to listen intently to catch each word.

While he is well-educated (bachelor's and master's degrees from Delta State University), Myers' effectiveness is not to be found in his diplomas. At the risk of oversimplification, the way to describe George Myers is as a man who knows and loves his people, and knows and loves his Lord.

To their credit, but not surprisingly, the Pleasant Hill membership loves its pastor. They provide for him well, with an annual salary raise and a nice new parsonage.

It is no longer surprising to hear someone remark, "Preacher, I'd like to visit the First Baptist Church, but frankly, my family and I are driving out to Pleasant Hill."

I know exactly how they feel. In fact, I'm hereby serving my members notice, that if the mood ever hits me just right, I'm joining Pleasant Hill!

LING TOU, Taiwan — The China Baptist Convention in Taiwan recently adopted its 1976 budget which included approximately one-fourth for overseas missions and one-third for home missions. The budget, amounting to \$30,635, was presented at the 21st meeting of the China Baptist Convention held at the Baptist assembly grounds here.

Christian High Adventure Slates Five Trips In 1976

ATLANTA, Ga. — Five leadership training and wilderness mountaineering expeditions in Colorado, New Mexico, California and along the Appalachian Trail have been scheduled by Christian High Adventure for summer, 1976.

Christian High Adventure (CHA) is jointly sponsored by the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board Department of Special Mission Ministries, the Sunday School Board Recreation Department and the Brotherhood Commission, SBC.

Directed by Chuck Clayton, western consultant for the HMB Special Mission Ministries Department CHA "relates the adventure of the Christ life to the adventure of the wilderness experience."

Trips planned during 1976 are as follows:

June 10-23: Staff and Leadership Training Expedition, men and women, 18 and older, rendezvous at Montrose, Colo.; trek in mountains of Southwestern Colorado, maximum participants 20, tuition \$150.

July 3-17: Colorado Wilderness Mountaineering Expedition, men only, 15½ and older, rendezvous at Montrose, Colo.; trek in mountains of Southwestern Colorado, maximum participants 20, tuition \$175.

July 23-30: Glorieta Leadership

Training Expedition, men only, 18 and older, rendezvous Glorieta, N. Mex.; trek in Pecos wilderness of New Mexico, maximum participants 20, tuition \$100.

August 14-18, Sierra Wilderness Mountaineering Expedition, men and women, 15½ and older, rendezvous Jenner Park, California, trek in Emmigrant and Hoover wilderness area and Yosemite Park, maximum participants 20, tuition \$150.

September 14-21: Eastern Leadership Training Expedition, men only, 18 and older, rendezvous Bristol, Va.; trek along Appalachian Trail, maximum participants 20, tuition \$100.

CHA participants provide only their boots, clothing and personal items. All other backpacking, camping and fishing equipment and food are provided by CHA.

Persons interested in participating in one of the CHA trips can obtain further information by writing to Chuck Clayton, Christian High Adventure, 201 South Third, Montrose, Colorado 81401. Clayton's telephone number is Area Code (303) 248-6109.

The spoken word is sketched in air; the printed word is chiseled in granite. It is still true that he who wields the pen shapes the future.

Plan National Baptist Visit

New Orleans — Seminary, state and mission board representatives have completed plans for a National Baptist relations emphasis April 22 and 23 on the campus of the New Orleans Baptist Seminary.

Dr. Paul Stevens, New Orleans Seminary Dean of Students, Dr. Tom Pfeiffer, Louisiana Director of Work with National Baptists, Ed Wheeler, Associate Director of Cooperative Ministries with National Baptists for the Home Mission Board, as well as Dick Brogan, Mississippi Director of work

with National Baptists and Dr. H. O. Hester, Alabama Director of Work with National Baptists met to outline the upcoming visit of National Baptist students to the New Orleans seminary next month.

National Baptists enrolled at the seminary, and those visiting the campus will enjoy a banquet, a tour of the campus and participate in discussion with representatives of the seminary, state agencies and denominational representatives.



The Glory—The Promise Of Easter!

"The winter is past,
the rain is over
and gone". . .
Spring has come again
with bird-song and April showers,
sun-warmed earth—green fields.
The dogwood wakes
from a sleepy season.
Its white-petaled blossoms
stained with brown
remind of Calvary's cross

As the flowering tree
spreads its branches
I remember His promise—
and whosoever liveth
and believeth in me
shall never die.
Immediate is my joy
as I welcome Easter,
day of resurrection!
Christ risen—Saviour,
Lord in glory

SCRAPBOOK

what does the rain remind you of?

I never felt rain splash against my face as it did today.
But there's one thing for certain,
the old and new rain are really not the same.

The rain just drizzles down,
and as it rains harder the flow is stuporous—
The rain runs with life over my soul.

While looking around me I noticed one tree,
just one,
I guess because it was so dark and gloomy so deep,
as the rain rushed down the sides of the tree,
A sudden experience gripped my senses.





BMC Elects New Leaders

Students of Blue Mountain College have elected Barbara Goddard of Booneville, (left), to serve as president of the Student Government Association for the 104th annual session of the college. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Smith Goddard of that city. Elected to serve as president of the Baptist Student Union Council is Rose Alldridge of Grenada. She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert Alldridge of Grenada.

Today's Youth



Indianola Boys Hike For Missions

The Donnie Hendon Crusade Chapter of Royal Ambassadors from Fairview Church, Indianola, hiked on March 13, for home missions. Eight boys hiked ten miles and were sponsored for \$725 for home missions. They were (kneeling) Daniel Kuneske and Chip Otis and (standing) Marion Hendon, Coyette Hendon, Roger Boone, Chuck Hendon, Craig Smith, and Ronnie Shaw.



Colonial Waifs

CHARLESTON, W. Va.—Allen Schwarz and Amber Weiner, both three years old, are costumed as they appeared in a Bicentennial Vesper and Communion Service at St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Charleston, W. Va. The offering was taken in long-handled baskets typical of those used 200 years ago and there was a replica of the pole employed in Revolutionary days to tackle or prod dozing worshippers. (RNS PHOTO)

TAEJON, Korea—More than 1,000 servicemen made professions of faith and were baptized in Korea during 1975. A Republic of Korea army sergeant has already been baptized this year. He responded to the invitation at an evangelistic service. After reading the booklet, *The Road to Freedom*, he requested baptism by immersion. He traveled more than 150 miles to be baptized here.

For Me

Under an Eastern sky,
Amid a rabble cry,
A Man went forth to die
For me!

Thorn-crowned His blessed head,
Blood-stained His every tread,
Cross-laden on He sped,
For me!

—Author unknown



Girls Hear Missionary Journeyman

The actess and G.A.'s of Friendship Church, Grenada, left, recently had as their guest, Nancy Chamberlain, right, who served as a journeyman for two years in Argentina. After showing her work, using visual aids, Miss Chamberlain explained sev-

eral items on display from Argentina. A graduate of Blue Mountain College, she is teaching in the Grenada School System. She is a native of Grenada. The girls expressed their appreciation by presenting her with a small gift.

POWERLINE

CAN GOD EVER TAKE ME BACK?

The human mind has difficulty comprehending the divine nature of God, especially his mercy.

I was brought up in a Christian home, but in the past year I have shoplifted, lied, and hurt my parents. I want to stop and I want to get off pills. I feel I have rejected God. How can I ever hope to have him take me back?

God loves you. He wants your life to be the best it can be. That's why he gives you a chance to start over no matter how much trouble you have been in. It's never too late to try again. God stands ready to forgive you and help you build a new life. It's up to you to decide whether or not you want that new life.

If you do, start by realizing that you cannot change the past, you cannot undo the wrong. You, like every human being, are imperfect. You need God's help in becoming what he intended you to be. Talk with him. Tell him you want his forgiveness. Ask him to give you a fresh start because of Christ's sacrifice.

That will put you on a new road, but it's only a beginning. The relationship you establish with God is one that gets stronger and more meaningful as you grow older. You will know him better and you will become more like him because you love him.

Get some help from others, too. Talk with a wise counselor. Get some information on a drug rehabilitation program. Try to discover why you have behaved in a way that hurts you and your parents. This is part of becoming a new person, too.

A weekly radio program for youth broadcast nationwide by So. Baptist Radio-TV Commission. For information write POWERLINE, Fort Worth, Texas 76116. Dr. J. P. Allen, Director, Audience Response

Carey Again To Offer "Free Throw"

William Carey College will again offer its summer FREE THROW program for high school juniors, according to an announcement today by Academic Vice-president of the college, Dr. J. M. Ernest.

Two five week semesters, the first beginning May 30, will give students the option of taking up to six semester hours of college courses without cost. At the conclusion of either or both sessions, the student may have his grades recorded permanently at Carey for college credit when he enrolls as a freshman or he may ask that they not be recorded.

The program is open to students who have completed the 11th grade and an overall high school average of C or better and/or a satisfactory ACT score. They must also be recommended by their high school principals.

Dr. Jerry Oswald, counselor in charge of the FREE THROW program, advises interested students to send in requests for applications to the Director of Admissions as quickly as possible.

Remember

You have to pretend there's a Santa with all his prancing reindeer.
You don't have to pretend there's a baby Jesus, who lay in a manger.
You have to pretend there's an Easter Bunny hopping down the trail.
You don't have to pretend Jesus rose again, to bid his friends farewell.
Why should you pretend, when you can have something perfectly true?
Remember Jesus on his holidays,
And God will surely bless you.
—Sheila Smith, 13

52 of 53 Weeks

Amy Bishop has quite a record with the Northeast Church of Meridian. When she was only 53 weeks old she had attended 52 consecutive weeks in the Sunday School's Nursery Department and earned her one year attendance pin. Her parents, Wayne and Faye Bishop, are active in the life of the church and Wayne serves as outreach director, as well as deacon. Harold Hankins is Sunday School director and Rev. Chris C. Cornelius is pastor.



Sunflower County Choir Presents "Freedom High"

The Sunflower County Bicentennial Youth Choir presented the musical, "Freedom High," on Sunday, April 11, during the special Sunflower County Bicentennial Celebration held that day at Moorhead. Harrel Wilcox directed the presentation, assisted by Edwin Sudduth at the piano and Sihone Harper at the organ. Youth from many churches in Sunflower County make up the choir.



Chapel Bells Ring In England

The Chapel Bells, handbell group from First Church, Columbus, directed by Perry G. Robinson, went on a concert tour in Europe March 12-20. They performed at Gold Hill Baptist Church, Chalfont St. Peter, Bucks, England, and at Little Stukeley Baptist Church, Little Stukeley, Huntingdon, Cambridge, England. They visited London and Stratford-on-Avon in England and Chateau d'Oex, Switzerland. Dr. Joe McKeever is the Columbus church's pastor.



Annual Dedicated To English Prof

Jackie Weddle, left, of West Memphis, Arkansas, editor-in-chief of the 1975-76 MOUNTAINEER, college yearbook at Blue Mountain College, is shown presenting the first copy to Miss Emogene Ray of Pontotoc, instructor and director of freshman English at the 103-year-old institution. This edition of the publication has a Bicentennial Theme, featuring the college seal in blue on the cover, surrounded by glossy red stars on white leather. The Mountaineer also includes six pages in red, white, and blue color prints. Mrs. Edd A. Conner of the BMC faculty is advisor for the annual staff.

"The average person," said Andrew Carnegie, "puts only 25% of his energy and ability into his work. The world takes off its hat to those who put in more than 50% of their capacity, and stands on its head for those few and far between souls who devote 100%."

"Turning Point" To Sing At Richland

TURNING POINT, a group of talented Christian young people, will be presented in concert at Richland Church at Plain on Easter Sunday, April 18, at 7 p.m., as a part of the 1975-76 national tour.

The group is comprised of college students from colleges and universities in the middle Atlantic and southeastern states, and is directed by Danny Whipple, noted musical director from Greenville, South Carolina.

This year's 10-month tour will reach college campus, civic groups and churches across the nation. Their ministry is for the entire family.

Pursuit of the happy life requires that we keep learning. You can increase your enjoyment by learning to learn. You will thereby build a sustained intellectual curiosity about a wide range of significant human problems. You will avoid absorbing rubbish and you will cultivate a thirst for understanding instead of an appetite for sensation. *Adapted from the adventures of the mind.*

PARADOXES...BUT TRUE!

You can succeed by failing.

FAILURE: THE BACKDOOR TO SUCCESS

"Those who have failed miserably are often the first to see God's formula for success," says Chicago pastor and author Erwin Lutzer. Here he explains how to lose the loser syndrome and find successful living in the will of God. Cloth \$3.95

Love can be immoral.

THE MORALITY GAP

Even though the ethic of love (expounded in *Situation Ethics*) is appealing, it has sometimes led to protest by bombs, cheating in the classroom, and wife-swapping. *The Morality Gap* exposes the weaknesses of moral philosophy and offers a biblical alternative that clearly recognizes and deals with moral decisions. Paper \$1.95

You can live in and above...

HOW IN THIS WORLD CAN I BE HOLY?

What should your attitude be toward modern trends that chip away at the standards of the past? Have God's standards changed? Here is a call to march to a different drummer—to be in but not of the world. Paper \$1.50

Order from your Baptist Book Store
moody press
THE BAPTIST BOOKSTORE

things go better with Coke



TWO SYMBOLS OF QUALITY.



... the Gold Medalion, assuring homeowners of modern living at its finest ... and Reddy Kilowatt, symbolizing an investor owned company helping build Mississippi.

MS POWER & LIGHT
Helping Build Mississippi

Audiologist Tells How To Hear Better

Find out what to do about today's most common hearing problem. Send for the free 8-page book, "The Truth About Nerve Deafness" by a prominent professor of audiology at a major school of medicine. The book is free, so write for yours now. There's no cost or obligation to anyone answering this advertisement. So, write today to Dept. 6574 Beltone Electronics, 4201 W. Victoria St., Chicago, Illinois 60646.

CHURCH FURNITURE

As a gift
Any Church Can Afford
Write to call
WAGNER BROS.
MFG. CO.
Phone: 801-2444
Boonville, Arkansas
72027

A Christian Family Life-Style

By Wm. J. Fallis
Colossians 3:1-21

With this lesson we begin a six-session unit on "A Christian Approach to Family Life." It was planned to focus attention on some modern conditions that are exerting great pressure on family life: mobility, new life-styles, conformity, drugs, and alcohol. In each case, of course, biblical experience and counsel are used to understand the threat and gain perspective on the values involved. This first lesson distinguishes between pagan and Christian attitudes and conduct. It establishes a home base from which we will explore some threatening territory.



The Lesson Explained
Set Your Hearts on
The Life-Giver
(vv. 1-4)

Because his readers were Christians, Paul used their experience of baptism to symbolize death, burial, and resurrection. It was a picture of the rejection of self-centeredness and the gift of new life through the risen Christ. Because that new life was so different, Paul urged believers to focus their minds on Christ, beyond earthly goals and patterns. Their concentration on him would give insight and spiritual resources for living the new life on earth. The world does not comprehend these resources or the commitment to the Lord; "your life is hid with Christ in God." But when Christ appears, that hiddenness will end. From beginning to end, the Christian remains focused on Christ. Destroy Earthly Ways of Acting (vv. 5-9)

In the time of King James "mortify" meant to make dead, but it is rarely used in that sense today. Yet the Greek word did mean that, as radical as it seems. Paul wanted those believers living in a pagan world to understand clearly the radical difference between Christian conduct and pagan conduct. Verse 5 reads in modern language: "You must put to death, then, the earthly desires at work in you, such as immorality, indecency, lust, evil passions, and greed (for greediness is a form of idol worship)" (TEV). These sins will bring God's judgment. Note that sexual immorality and the love of money are equally condemned. Then in verse 8 Paul added to the list: anger, malice, slander, and obscene abuse. Believers must speak the truth to one another because lying was a part of the self they had rejected when accepting Christ as Lord.

Practice God's Patterns
(vv. 10-14)

The new self is the work of God, and he is shaping it continually into his own image. In that experience human distinctions lose their significance because Christ permeates all relationships and brings them under his control. Verses 12-14 list characteristics of the people of God. Still using the clothing analogy, Paul said believers "must put on compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience" (TEV). They must be patient with one another and ready to forgive when someone has wronged them. After all, the Lord had already forgiven each believer. Of course, love would be like a belt in holding all the new attitudes and skills together.

Work on Family Stability
(vv. 15-20)

These patterns of behavior — earthly and godly — were concerns of everyone in the community of faith — the church. But what better place to deal with them than the family? In love and appreciation the members can help one another get rid of bad patterns and practice good ones. In these three verses Paul focused on the family. The Christian life-style in the family needs the help of every member. Submission, love, and obedience can afford the stability for growth and service. Paul knew that the wife needed the protection and help of the husband. The husband must respond with love and kindness. In that atmosphere children were expected to obey their parents.

Sunday School Lesson: Life and Work

The Joy Of Parenthood

By Bill Dunham
I Samuel 1:1-28

"I'm scared God
I'm not at all certain that I'm fit
or able to guide this child you
have entrusted to me.
I listen to the voices around me.
The voices confuse me.
The voices frighten me.
I cannot guide this child alone
Dear Lord, May I offer him to
you?
Not like Hannah giving Samuel,
I don't really know how to do
that.
I mean, may I trust you to guide
my efforts to guide him?
May I have faith that you will
somehow affect the mistakes I
am sure to make?
May I have confidence that you
will do what is best for him?
If so, I can be content to do the
best I can for him."
"Parenthood— Privilege and
Responsibility" is the title of a
new series of Bible study lessons
that we shall consider the next
four weeks. With every privilege
there is equal responsibility. How
many people do you know that
are successful parents? Of course
the question is, "What is suc-
cess?"

As one looks at the life of Samuel, he sees a very different situation from the modern family unit of today. Today's coffee break discussion may go something like this: "Some times on the weekend I feel

like a human taxi," groaned the father of two teenagers still too young to drive. "That's why it is more of a relief than a worry when they get a license," responded the woman across the table. Thus, parenthood is described as children on your toes when they are small and on your heart when they get older. Very few seem to see any joy in parenthood because adults feel "tied down" and "bothered" by children. This is a selfish view of life.

Today there are many organizations that assume responsibility for an area of the child's life. The parents pay the bill and the children are "run" by these child developers.

Who sees that your child grows intellectually? A math teacher explained his view of the parents' role as related to his own. "I tell my students not to expect mother and daddy to help them. If they need help, tell me. We'll get the answers." Learning must be a team approach. We cannot turn the child over to someone else to teach him everything. Parents cannot escape their responsibility.

Parental joy comes when one sees the child reach healthy goals in life and learning. Happiness is always the by-product of an achieved goal of expectation.

The parents of Samuel had a "few" problems that needed to be considered. First of all, there were two wives, and that is enough right there. But the situation was even more complex because Hannah did not have any children. Peninnah had some; this provoked Hannah and irritated her to tears and loss of appetite. The husband, Elkanah, attempted to treat them fairly, but was caught between their jealousies for each other. Life was very difficult, to say the least.

Hannah finally reached the point where she began to appeal to the Lord for help. When we come to the end of our way, we turn to the Lord. This is where she should have started. Her appeal to the Lord was a promise to set the child aside for lifelong service as a Nazirite, if she could just have a baby.

Eli, the old priest, was impressed by Hannah's earnestness, which he mistook for intoxication. He added his blessing to the barren woman's prayer for a son. Something happened that brought spiritual peace previously lacking. It could have been the personal fulfillment of having genuinely prayed.

In due time Samuel was born and named in accord with the answer of prayer. Elkanah shared Hannah's willingness to dedi-

progressive for it gives an awareness of personal vitality beyond the grave.

What do you do when you receive the answer of your prayer? The follow-through with all your promises brings the joy of the Lord. Hannah's song is a praise of testimony that she had been vindicated.

Samuel's resting place in the temple by the ark of God suggests that he was serving in a priestly way to keep the lamps burning all night. When God began to call Samuel, we do not know. But a voice called, "Samuel." The source of Samuel's predawn summons went unrecognized either because of the boy's inexperience or because of the rarity of divine visitations. When Eli recognized God's presence, he instructed Samuel as to the proper response to God's call. He was to indicate his willingness to listen. God can speak through the still small voice to a man who is already searching for guidance, but the Lord is unlikely to overpower one who is insensitive to his direction.

Even a child must understand the seriousness of sin. Judgment on Eli's house was because of the failure of Eli, and the sins of his sons. They had failed to provide the leadership which Israel so desperately needed.

Samuel's training and attitude made his heart responsive to God's word. He was willing to trust God. But Samuel needed human encouragement to do the right thing.

A man once said, "My mother makes me go to church, and there's one thing I'm not going to do. I'm not going to force religion down my child's throat. He can make up his own mind." The adult who wanted his child to be free to make his own choice has already made it difficult for the child to make sound choices in the spiritual realm.

Why does your child want to join the church? One boy wanted to be able to hold up his hand and vote—like for the budget.

When a parent sees the signs of a child's searching for spiritual direction, it can be a joy for him to be a "guide" giving direction, rather than pacing the trail. I like the idea of the parent becoming the teacher to open up the child's insight and help to equip him to make sound choices. The best way to lead a child in spiritual matters is for the parent to see himself as a fellow-adventurer on an exciting road. You cannot take your child's step for him but you can assure him that the Christian life is rich and a rewarding experience.

A parent experiences real joy

Nagasaki
one man's return

"This special broadcast will make you feel good."

A national television special concerning the effects of the atomic bomb on Nagasaki, Japan, and on the life of one person who experienced the aftermath—BUCKNER FANNING.

Tuesday Night April 20th

Produced by Miller Productions Incorporated

Annuity Board Plans Conference For Annuitants

DALLAS — The Southern Baptist Convention Annuity Board here announced it will sponsor an Annuitants' Conference May 10-14.

It will use facilities of the Baptist Conference Center in Ridgecrest, N. C., according to Kermit E. Whiteaker, Dallas, senior vice president and director of operations for the Board. Whiteaker will direct the conference.

There will be no second Annuitants' Conference at Glorieta, N. M., later in the year, Whiteaker added.

Ramsey Pollard, Memphis, retired former president of the SBC, will be preacher for the conference. J. Winston Pearce, Buies Creek, N. C., retired teacher and preacher, will be inspiration speaker.

Mrs. Pearce will lead Bible study. Ira C. Proser, retired music director living in Lexington, Ky., will direct the music. Rents Barkley, minister of music at Georgian Hills Baptist Church, Memphis, will be pianist.

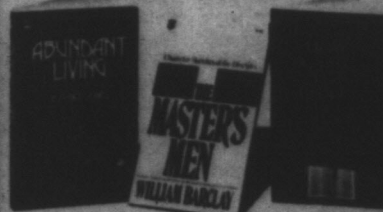
J. Earl Mead, Dallas, retired church education director, will provide morning devotions and afternoon nature studies. Mrs. Monroe Scroggins, Longview, Tex., will instruct conference participants in crafts and oil painting.

Retired pastor, John L. White, Ridgeland, S. C., and his wife will also offer classes.

"If you have mature friends who are interested in the conference, you may invite them to attend with you for the same registration fee, even though they are not SBC annuitants," Whiteaker said.

Attendance of over 150 is expected.

Celebrate the Joy of Good Reading with Inexpensive Paperbacks



ABUNDANT LIVING

E. Stanley Jones confronts fifteen enemies of the abundant life promised by Jesus. Uplifting insight and powerful evidence of the overcoming grace of God! Read it, share it with a friend, or study it in a group! \$1.95, paper

THE DIVINE YES

E. Stanley Jones faces human tragedy and physical inadequacy with a sense of victory based solely on faith! Warm and direct. \$1.50, paper

BLESS THIS MESS & OTHER PRAYERS

Jo Carr and Imogene Sorley share their joys and burdens with the Lord and slay several "everyday-type dragons." \$1.50, paper

HOW CAME THE BIBLE?

Edgar J. Goodspeed's classic explanation of how the books of the Bible were preserved, canonized, and translated. \$1.75, paper

THE MASTER'S MEN

William Barclay presents discerning portraits of the twelve disciples who followed Jesus. \$1.50, paper

THE WILL OF GOD

Leslie D. Weatherhead's clearly understandable explanation of God's will in three facets: intentional, circumstantial, and ultimate. \$1.25, paper



order from your baptist book store
abingdon

Prayer Lift For Pastors: April 18-24

Jones
April 18
J. F. Sumner, Fairfield
John Foy, Faith
W. C. Burns, Ellenville, First
Dickie McAllister, Fellowship
James Keith, Laurel, First
April 19
Bobby Thompson, Sharon, First
Billy Ingram, Freedom
Leroy Craven, Friendship
Rick Hammerstrom, Glade
Jim Mashburn, Harmony
April 20
Ronnie Huddleston, Hebron
Ralph Graves, Highland

For
CHURCH FURNITURE
Call
LEEDS SEATING CO.
P. O. Box 639
LEEDS, ALA. 35094
205/640-5175



Borden's Is the milk for children!



Given Car On 30th Year At Bissell

Bissell Church of Tupelo, in Lee County, recently honored their pastor, Rev. G. L. Ford, on his 30th anniversary as pastor of the church by presenting him a new Pontiac. Members expressed the love of the church for their pastor, and he in turn, with his wife, expressed sincere appreciation to the church and love for every member. Pastor Ford led this church to become the first fulltime church in Lee County outside the city of Tupelo.

Refugee Resettlement Efforts Are Reviewed

ATLANTA (BP) — Southern Baptists who directed Vietnamese refugee resettlement met here to review what they accomplished and begin plans to do it more effectively in the future, if the occasion arises.

Some 20 persons, including state Baptist convention representatives, Southern Baptist Home Mission Board staff members and home and foreign missionaries who served in the resettlement camps, discussed their efforts that resulted in at least 768 family units and 2,777 refugees sponsored by Southern Baptists.

Those totals represent the number of refugees resettled through Church World Service (CWS), the agency through which the Home Mission Board works in refugee resettlement. However, estimates are that Southern Baptists, working through other agencies, settled at least several hundred more.

The meeting here dealt with every aspect of the resettlement effort, from accounts of the evacuation in Vietnam to the work of

the missionaries in the refugee camps and the resettlement-sponsorship process carried on by the states and the Home Mission Board.

M. Wendell Belew, director of the board's division of missions ministries, who presided over the sessions, said a subcommittee will be named to begin drafting "models" to help guide any future resettlement efforts.

"These models or ready plans," Belew said, "will try to take into consideration every contingency we might face in refugee resettlement — another Vietnam, evacuation of a country where we have no missionaries, the rather routine stream of refugees such as are coming from many countries today, and the kinds of service we feel we can offer in any situation."

"Though it's not likely we ever will face exactly the same situation as we faced with the Vietnamese," he added, "we want to try to be better prepared for that or any other situation."

Our Resurrected Lord

By Tommy Tutor, Pastor, First, Holly Springs
Lake 24-5b-7

Jesus' mission of conquering our enemies was completed when the Father raised him from the dead. The last enemy is death and the grave. The entire message of the gospel is dependent upon the resurrection. If there was no resurrection, then our preaching of the gospel is vain. But, thank God the angel asked the question, "Why seek ye the living among the dead?" The answer, "He is not here, but is risen."



Jesus conquered life, death, hell, and the grave. The Father confirmed his approval by the resurrection. Thus, we have the eternal hope that because he lives we shall live, also. Through the resurrection we have some new insights into death. Death actually is just another experience in life for the believer in Christ.

Our resurrected Lord testifies that death is not the end, but a new beginning of living in a dimension of life we call eternity. The Psalmist says, "Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death. . . Thus, we walk through the experience of death. Jesus lived and walked on this earth some forty days after his resurrection. His disciples knew him, talked and lived with him during this time. At the close of these days he ascended back to be with the Father in Heaven. Thus, the resurrection proves that death is not the end.

Also, we see that death is not a loss, but a gain for the believer in Christ. After the resurrection Jesus was not limited by a physical body. No longer was he subject to the limitation of a human body, but was able to move about without the hindrance of physical limitations. He walked through the door instead of the doorway. No longer was he endangered by temptation of Satan, dread of sickness or disease. Therefore, death proved not to be a loss but a gain for Christ.

Finally, our resurrected Lord proved that death does not bring defeat but ultimate victory. The day Christ died, accompanied by the darkness and earthquake was a day of gloom and despair for the disciples and all the believers. Their Lord was dead; they expected him to reign and rule. Hope that was so bright was now dim. Yet, they soon were to know that death and the grave could not hold sway over the Son of God. Soon they were to learn that their last enemy had been conquered. Thus, they sensed in their own lives the ultimate victory which they saw in our resurrected Lord.

A Song At Easter

If this bright lily can live once more,
And its white promise be as before,
Why can not the great stone be moved from His door?

If the green grass ascend and shake
Year after year, and blossoms break
Again and again for April's sake,

Why can not He, from the dark and mould,
Show us again His manifold
And gleaming glory a stream of gold?

Faint heart, be sure these things must be.
See the new bud on the old tree! . . .
If flowers can wake, oh, why not He?
—Charles Hanson Towne

Revival Dates

Spring Hill (Marshall): April 25-May 1; Rev. Ray Butler, Slayden, evangelist; Jack Robinson, singer; Mrs. Lillie Goodwin, pianist; Rev. William Gullick, pastor.

Georgetown Church: April 14-18; services 7:30 each evening; Rev. John D. Engle, pastor, evangelist; Mike Scott, music director, Calvary Church, Silver Creek, singer; guest speakers: April 15th, "Ladies Night" — Marjean Patterson, executive secretary, WMU; April 15th, "Men's Night" — Jim Kitchens, district attorney, Copiah County; April 16th, "Youth Night" — Dr. Bradley Pope, BSU director, Mississippi College. Climax will be a Sunrise Service April 18th.

First Church, Natchez: April 25-32; services 7:30 p.m., Noon-Day services 12; Dr. Drew J. Gunnells, Jr., evangelist; and Mrs. Martha Branham, concert soprano; Odean W. Puckett, pastor.

Bethel Church (Yalobusha): April 18-23; Rev. G. L. Ford, pastor Bissell Church, evangelist; Travis Clement of Camp Ground Church, Yalobusha, music evangelist; services 7:00 p.m.; Rev. H. T. Curbow, pastor.

First Church, Olive Branch: April 11-18; Dr. David Skinner, on staff of Mid-America Seminary, evangelist; Charlie Cooper, music evangelist; services 1:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.; Rev. P. J. Scott, pastor.

Sandersville Church (Jones): April 25-30; Rev. Millard Bennett, pastor of FBC, Inverness, evangelist; Dennis Brown, Sandersville minister of music, singer; services on Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.; weekday services 7:30 p.m.; Rev. Bruce G. Jolly, pastor.

North McComb Church, McComb, April 11 - 18; at 7 p.m.; Rev. Mel Craft, pastor of Tyler-town Church, preaching; Dr. Mike Simoneaux, missionary on furlough, leading the music; Joe H. Ratcliff, pastor.

First Church, Lauderdale: April 18-19; David Wilkinson, pastor of West Side, Demopolis, Alabama, evangelist; Bobby Martin, singer; Jerry Bishop, pastor.

Van Winkle Church, Jackson: April 25-May 2; Dr. John Hull from Marietta, Georgia, full-time evangelist, preaching; services at 10 a.m. and at 7:30 p.m.; Dr. Herman Milner, pastor.

Paul Church (Tallahatchie): April 15-18; Rev. Claude E. Wiltshire, pastor and evangelist; Hollis Ishee, Grenada, singer; special music each night; special Easter service at 6 a.m.; nightly services at 7:30.

Pecan Grove Church, Ellisville: April 18-23; Rev. Russell Cottingham, evangelist; Easter service at 8 a.m. and Sunday school at 9:00; Training Union 5:00 and worship service at 6:00; weekday services at 7:30 p.m.; Rev. Lester Gardner, pastor.

Drew: youth revival, April 21-25; Rev. Randy Turner, Hazlehurst, evangelist; music led by Byron (Bunkum) Cuter, Magnolia; Kick-off concert by "Gift of Song" from Ole Miss, on Wednesday, April 21 at 7:30.

Homecoming Set At Shady Grove

Annual Homecoming Day will be observed Sunday, April 25, at Shady Grove Church, Hazlehurst. Guest speaker will be Rev. Cecil C. Randall, former pastor and currently pastor of First Baptist Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. Rev. Randall will bring the message during the morning service with lunch served at the church. Memorial offering for the cemetery fund will be received. Former members and friends invited to attend.

ST. DAVID'S, Bermuda — An appeal on television by Robert L. Harris, Southern Baptist missionary and pastor of First Baptist Church here, brought in more than \$1,800 to aid Guatemalan earthquake victims. Miss Alma Hunt, recently retired Woman's Missionary Union executive secretary, took the money to the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board headquarters in Richmond, Va. Miss Hunt was in Bermuda as a guest speaker at First Baptist and various other churches.

Names In The News



Osyha Church recently ordained two deacons, Ben Erwin, right, and Jerry Woodward, left. The pastor, Rev. Drew D. Blanton, brought the charge to the church and Rev. Curtis Williams, pastor of Central Church, McComb brought the charge to the deacons.

Dr. Wayne Robbins of Chattanooga State Technical Community College assumed duties at Belmont College, Nashville, as vice-president with special duties in the areas of public relations, alumni affairs, and development on March 1, according to Dr. Herbert C. Gabbhart, president. Dr. Robbins was born in Tennessee. He is a graduate of Mississippi State University.

Robert Clinton Rogers of Hattiesburg has been awarded a Presidential Scholarship to Mississippi College for the 1976-77 school year. Rogers, son of Rev. and Mrs. Robert H. Rogers of Hattiesburg, is a student at Petal High School in Petal.



Mike Lankford was licensed to the ministry by First Church, Wayne Association, on April 4. A reception was held in his honor after the evening service. Rev. Donald Campbell, pastor, presented the license. Henry Odem, chairman of deacons, presented a \$50 gift certificate from the church. Mr. Lankford is pictured above with Pastor Campbell.

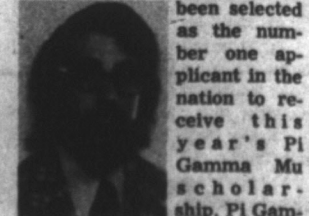


Jim McVay, right, a member of Bissell Church, is shown receiving his twenty-sixth year Sunday School attendance pin. The pin is being presented by Claude Duke director of Sunday School, Bissell Church. Rev. G. L. Ford is pastor.

Student-sponsored intramural basketball games between students and faculty have helped the Clarke College Annie Armstrong home missions offering to reach \$676.32. Before turning in the offering, the mission-minded college will add more to this total, released April 7.

Robert E. Haney was recently ordained to the ministry by Parkview Church, Greenville. He has been called as pastor of Southside Church, Benoit. Haney, the son of Mr. and Mrs. William R. Haney, is a native of Clarke County. He has attended Clarke College and plans to further his formal training. He is married to the former, Judy Tribble of Meridian. Billy G. Johnson, pastor of Parkview, preached the ordination sermon.

William Carey College student, David Carson Davis, has received word that he has been selected as the number one applicant in the nation to receive this year's Pi Gamma Mu scholarship.



Pi Gamma Mu is a National Social Science Honor Society. David, whose parents, Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Davis, are missionaries, was born in Port Harcourt, Nigeria. His family moved to Ghana, where he attended Ghana International High School. In 1972, he came to the United States to attend William Carey College, where he will receive a B.S. degree in May.

Mississippians To Glorietta

More than 150 Mississippians will be attending MISSISSIPPI WEEK AT GLORIETTA, August 7-13. This information has just been released by the Glorieta Conference Center. This will be the largest group ever to attend one Church Training Leadership week at Glorieta, according to Kermit S. King, Mississippi Church Training Department Director. Last year a special emphasis was placed on one week at Ridgecrest with the intention for Mississippi to "go west" in 1976.

Special emphasis during the week will be the participation of a Mississippi representative in the Youth Bible Drill and in the Youth Speakers Tournament. The staff of the Church Training Department will be participating in the activities during this week along with at least ten association Church Training Directors.

Those interested should send a reservation fee of \$15.00 per person to Glorieta Baptist Conference Center, Glorieta, New Mexico 87535.

Rev. J. C. Pinson Dies At Gulfport

Rev. James C. Pinson, 70, a resident of Route 3, Box 234, Gulfport, MS, died March 12, 1976 at Memorial Hospital where he had been a patient for more than three months.

His last pastorate was at Lyman, Gulfport. He continued to sing and play gospel music throughout the Gulf Coast Association until his last illness.

Mr. Pinson had done evangelistic preaching and singing in Mississippi and Louisiana, pastoring churches in both states.

Survivors include his wife Mrs. Ruby Burch Pinson; two sons, Dr. James W. "Jay" Pinson, USM, Hattiesburg, and Major Joseph W. "Joe" Pinson, Virginia Beach, Virginia; one brother; four sisters; and seven grandchildren.

Correction

Salena Blackburn was pictured in the April 1 edition of the Baptist Record, with Marjean Patterson at the autograph party given at the WMU Convention in Gulfport. Salena attends the Mohoba Baptist Church, Greene Association, rather than First, Leakesville, as stated.

Missionary To Speak At Homecoming In Lincoln County

Philadelphia Church near Brookhaven, at Caseyville, will observe annual homecoming on Easter Sunday, April 18.

The featured speaker will be Rev. John Smith, missionary to Indonesia, now home on furlough. Mr. Smith is a native of Lincoln County.

Morning and afternoon services will be held, with lunch served at noon, according to the pastor, Rev. Edd Alexandria.

Crane Joins First, Hattiesburg, Staff

Rev. John Crane has joined the staff of First Church Hattiesburg, as minister of youth education activities. At North Central Church in Gainesville, Florida, he has been serving in a similar capacity.

John is the son of Rev. and Mrs. James Crane; SBC representatives in Mexico. He is married to the former Nancy Rightmeyer of Fort Worth. Nancy has been instrumental in beginning the puppet ministry and training young people in their use. The Cranes have a 10 month old daughter, Gypsy Michelle.

A graduate of Texas A and I University, with a B. A. degree in Spanish and history, John was Texas Intercollegiate Soccer League All Tournament Goalkeeper in 1971. After college he was a free agent for the Dallas Tornado Professional Soccer Club.

He has his master's degree in religious education from Southwestern Seminary.

Dr. Brooks Wester is pastor of First Church, Hattiesburg.

Crowder Homecoming

Crowder Church will celebrate homecoming day on April 25, beginning at 11 a.m. Rev. James Dabney Parker, pastor at the church, 1850-52, will preach. Lunch will be served at the church. Rev. Truman D. Scarborough is the pastor.

Off The Record

A young chaplain, new with the prison system, was sent to console an inmate soon to be sent to the electric chair. As the prisoner was being led to the chair, the flustered chaplain, not wanting to say "Good-bye," which sounded terribly final or "See you later," which he knew he wouldn't do, finally offered his final encouragement to the condemned man. "More power to you," he blurted.

A business executive stopped his car each morning as he passed a state institution. In the yard one of the inmates was continually going through the motions of winding up and pitching an imaginary ball.

Finally his friend asked, "Why do you stop each morning and watch that unfortunate fellow go 'through his act'?"

"Well," he answered, "if things go the way they are, I'll be there someday catching for that guy and I want to get onto his curves."



Mt. Zion Calls Shelly Adams

Mt. Zion Church, Desoto County, has called Rev. Shelly Adams as pastor. He has begun his duties there, in his first pastorate.

A native of Baton Rouge, he is married to the former Thelda Stokes of Baton Rouge. They have two children, Jeannie, 12, and Michelle, 8.

Mr. Adams, a graduate of Istrouma High School, has attended Mid-America Bible Institute for two years. He was ordained to preach by the Colonial Hills Church, Southaven.



William Raspberry (center), columnist for The Washington (D. C.) Post and a graduate of Okolona High School, is the 1976 recipient of the Silver Em Award, presented to a native Mississippian who has made outstanding contributions in the field of journalism. Presenting the award to Raspberry on the White House lawn are Larry Speakes (left), formerly of Cleveland, White House Assistant Press Secretary; and S. Gale Denley, associate professor of Journalism at the University of Mississippi and director of the Mississippi Scholastic Press Association, which sponsors the annual award. The award was presented to the journalist in Washington since he could not be present at ceremonies, Friday, March 26 during the MSPA meeting at Ole Miss.